

# Washington State Damage Reporting

## Q4 2018 DIRT Analysis Oct. - Dec. 2018



### Introduction

This Washington Damage Information Reporting Tool (DIRT) report provides a summary and analysis of submitted damage events occurring during the fourth quarter of 2018. For the most accurate analysis of damage events, it is important that damages are reported to DIRT within the 45 day timeframe set in statute. Any damages occurring during that time and submitted after the 45 days will not be included in this analysis.

### Trends

Winter weather and shorter days definitely reduced the number of damages from 890 in the third quarter to **626** damages submitted this quarter. With a very small number of duplicate damage reports, (where both the facility operator and the excavator reported damages), they both have been left in the root cause analysis below. This is because each report listed different root causes for the damage incident.

### Root Cause

Examining the root cause for damage incidents provides valuable information in preventing future damage. When filing DIRT reports, we strongly encourage thoughtful determination of the actual cause. This gives everyone who evaluates DIRT reports the best opportunity to provide accurate analysis of the damage cause.

**Notification Issue** was 34 percent of the total damages this quarter with 162 reports stating that no request for locates had been made to the one-call center. Under Locate Requests (see below), there were 231 reports that indicate that there was no locate request. This data point shows that the submitters used a different root cause on 69 reports, rather than state there was not a request for a locate, and ultimately no locate marks on the ground.

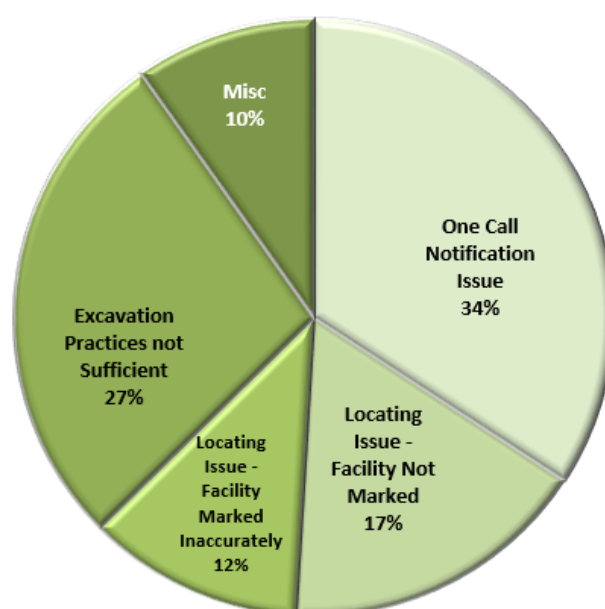
**Excavation Practices** accounts for 27 percent of the reports received this quarter with causes as follows: Improper excavation practices 65; Excavator dug prior to verifying marks by test-hole 38; and Excavator failed to maintain clearance 35.

**Locating Issue - Facility Not Marked** is at 17 percent of the total. There were 74 reports stating the damage was caused due to locator error by not marking, and 11 reports stating it was because of incorrect facility records/maps.

**Locating Issue - Facility Marked Inaccurately** is 12 percent of the reports submitted with 51 reports listing that the facility was marked inaccurately due to locator error.

The **Miscellaneous** category makes up the last 10 percent with 51 reports identifying that a root cause was not listed in the other categories, and five stating that there was previous damage. **Submitters should always try to determine a root cause when submitting DIRT reports. By doing so, it will help identify where education and outreach efforts need to be focused.**

### Damage by Root Cause

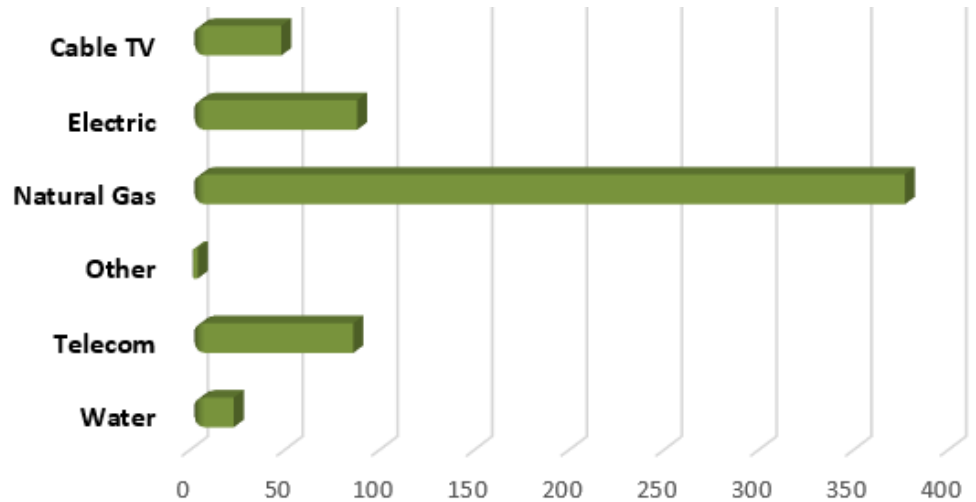


### LOCATE REQUESTS FOR THE 626 REPORTS:

395	—YES a locate was requested	63%
231	— NO locate was requested	37%

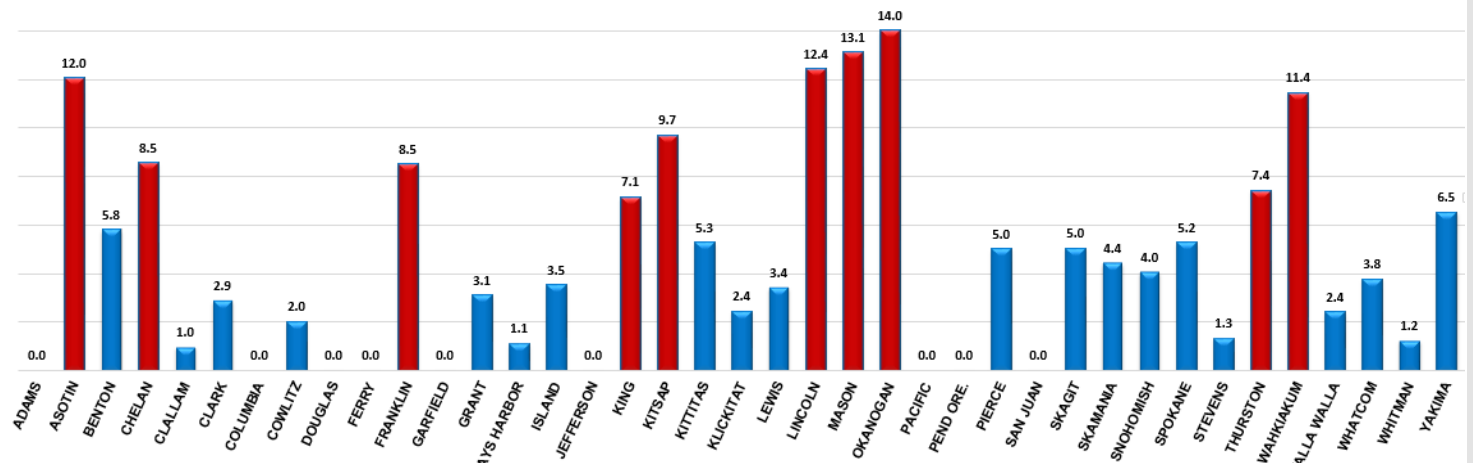
## Facilities Damaged

There were 377 damages to **Natural gas** services, which accounted for 60 percent of the DIRT reports received this quarter. Eighty-eight reports were received for damages to **Electric** services; closely followed by **Telecommunications** at 86 reports; and **Cable TV** was damaged 48 times. There were also 36 reports of damage to **Water** facilities, and four damages listed in the **Other** category. This category includes sewer and liquid pipelines.



## Damage Events by County

The chart below provides a visual comparison of **damage incidents by county, per 1,000 incoming locate requests**. We previously highlighted counties that were over 10 damages per 1,000 locate requests, then focused training and education in those counties. If you have been watching this data point, you will know that progress has been made, and that education and outreach by many stakeholders has worked. Again, we are highlighting counties with more than **seven** damages per 1,000 locate requests, to help identify places that can also benefit from education, advertising, or outreach. We believe this data point helps visually show the importance of continuing to make more people aware of the importance of calling or clicking 811.



## Education

The above graph gives a visual picture of where damage prevention stakeholders can work together to reduce damage by promoting the importance of 811 and safe excavation practices. **Last quarter Walla Walla was at 12.5 damages per 1,000 locate requests. A NUCA Dig Safe training with over 40 attendees was held there in October, and their damages dropped to 2.4, confirming that education works!** This analysis can also assist in providing information that can be used for your trainings; tail-gate meetings; advertising; and in having crucial conversations about protecting lives and infrastructure as it relates to underground excavation. So, please take opportunities to educate others whenever possible. If you have questions about this report, damage reporting, or would like to request a presentation by the commission, please contact [Lynda Holloway](#).